

## METHODISTS BEGIN LABORS TOMORROW

350 Delegates Expected to Attend the 131st Annual Conference.

### MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN MOUNT VERNON PLACE

President Wilson to Attend Exercises Thursday Night—Bishop Candler of Atlanta to Preside.

The 131st session of the Baltimore annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, to convene tomorrow morning, will be held in the Mount Vernon Place Church, 3th and K streets northwest, is to be opened informally to-night with a sermon by Rev. J. Howard Wells of the Baltimore Trinity M. E. Church, South, at one time pastor of the Mount Vernon Place Church.

Bishop W. A. Candler of Atlanta was among the first arrivals of the hundreds of delegates who are expected to arrive today and tonight to attend the conference. He reached Washington this morning. Other prominent churchmen who are expected to be in attendance at the conference are Morgan Stewart, Thomas H. Howson and Clarence H. Davis.

The grand jurors ignored a charge of assault to kill preferred against Jessie Graham.

Others indicted and the charges against them are: John Butler, assault with a dangerous weapon; Belle Parker, grand larceny; William Delaney and Gus West, housebreaking; Aurie Mackey, assault with a dangerous weapon; Richard Gross, robbery; Ella Smallwood, assault with a dangerous weapon; Earl Davis and Howard Shorter, housebreaking and larceny.

Women to Discuss Rule 45. Several women's organizations are planning to discuss "Rule 45" of the board of education at their next meeting. This rule automatically releases from the service of the public schools woman teachers who marry. It is possible that a mass meeting may be called.

The forthcoming return to Japan of Mineichiro Adachi, the Japanese minister to Mexico, the Japanese foreign office explains, is due to the chaotic conditions and the absence of a responsible government in Mexico. The secretary of the legation will remain in Mexico.

Winning of American Indoor Tennis Title by Miss Bjurstedt to Benefit Sport.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The success of Miss Molla Bjurstedt, the Norwegian champion, in winning the American indoor championship last week at the Seventh Regiment Armory should prove a distinct benefit to the women's side of the game this season. Miss Bjurstedt, who has held the championship of Norway for eleven years, has come for quite a stay and she is planning to take part in the most important tournaments over here, including the national championship at Philadelphia in June. New blood is badly needed among the women players and her entry into the field will be welcome.

The Christian woman showed several points of distinct superiority in the final over Miss Marie Wagner, last year's champion, and it is thought she will be able to repeat her victory when the spring season opens outdoors, on dirt courts anyway, if not on grass.

It is doubtful what Miss Bjurstedt will be able to accomplish on grass, for they do not have grass courts here. She has had little or no experience on turf. The board of the ball is noticeably different from dirt boards. But every evidence that the little Norwegian showed last week indicated that she ought not to have any great difficulty in getting the range for grass court play before the championship date comes around in June, and if she does come to it kindly she will have to be reckoned with as one of the dangerous contenders.

Has Refreshing Enthusiasm. Miss Bjurstedt shows an enthusiasm that is refreshing. She is as keen on the game as a young girl of nineteen, and she seems to be in excellent physical condition. Against Miss Wagner, who she lacked perhaps her speed in the ground strokes, she was steadier at all times, kept the ball low down and deep, and she never seemed to lack experience. Although it was her first experience in a strange land, the Norwegian did not lean toward the volleying game, but she did not fail to make advantage of such openings as she had.

It must be kept in mind that Miss Wagner is one of the most experienced women players we have in the east, and she was a dangerous contender for the last national championship. She was officially rated as the third player in America last season, with only two western women above her. With Miss Bjurstedt may find the eastern tournaments an easy field for her.

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## SEIZURE OF THE DACIA DECLARED TO BE VALID

Decision of Commission on American Ship Now Goes to French Prize Court.

PARIS, March 23, via London, 4:05 p.m.—A commission of inquiry into the capture by a French cruiser of the American steamship Dacia while on a voyage from the United States to Rotterdam with a cargo of cotton on board has declared the seizure to be valid.

The case now goes before the French prize court, which is allowed two months to hand down its decision.

The Dacia belonged formerly to the Hamburg-American line. She changed her name and became the American ship after the outbreak of hostilities. Laden with cotton and destined to Germany, she was captured by a French cruiser and taken into Brest. Two questions have arisen in connection with the Dacia case—one is the validity of the transfer of her registry, and the other the disposition of her cargo.

"PEANUT JIMMIE" DEAD; LIFE SNUFFED BY GAS

War Veteran and Familiar Figure in City Was Eighty-Two Years Old.

James Connolly, eighty-two years old, veteran of the civil war, was found dead in his room on the second floor of a building in the city of Washington, northwest, shortly before noon today. His room was filled with gas that had escaped from an open fixture that supplied fuel for a small stove, and the condition of his body indicated that the gas had killed him.

Connolly was a familiar figure about this city for many years. He sold candy, peanuts and popcorn from a truck, and was known to many persons in the business section of the city as "Peanut Jimmie."

Known as a "Scrapper." Many years ago he sold peanuts and candy in Kerner's Theater, and during the past several summers he supplied many excursionists on their way to Chesapeake Beach.

Connolly came here some time after the close of the war. It is stated that he was wounded in the defense of his country, and persons who were well acquainted with him said he possessed a belligerent spirit after leaving Uncle Sam's service.

In police circles Connolly made a record as a "scraper." He is stated to have been in the defense of his country, and persons who were well acquainted with him said he possessed a belligerent spirit after leaving Uncle Sam's service.

Ambitious for Long Life. "Peanut Jimmie," his friends say, had been on the "water wagon" for a long time. He frequently remarked that he expected to live to pass the century mark, but during recent months his health failed him and he doubted if he would live to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of his birth.

Sunday the candy and peanut seller collapsed and was taken sick to go to the pension office and get a pension of \$72 for three months. It is said, however, and got his pension. The police found nearly \$75 in his room.

Active Work Begins On QUARTERS FOR DOG SHOW

Entries to Close Monday for Kennel Club Exhibit, April 12, 13, for Neighborhood House Benefit.

Active work for preparing the building on Connecticut avenue that is to house the dog show to be given April 12 and 13, by the Washington Kennel Club, for the benefit of Neighborhood House, began this morning. All interior construction is being removed, and first-class "doggy" quarters are being built to take care of the hundreds of prospective applicants for berths at Washington's coming "dog fest."

The Secretary of War and Mrs. Garrison and the Postmaster General and Mrs. Burleson are among those who have signified their intention to be patrons and patronesses of the show.

Other patrons and patronesses include Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Eustis, Mr. and Mrs. Gist Blair, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Fahnestock, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hollister Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Eno, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Addison and Mrs. Angus McSwen.

The entries in all classes close Monday, it is announced.

Diet School Open to Visitors. Mrs. J. L. Wilmett, president of the Monroe Home and School Association, today extended a general invitation to all officers of mothers' clubs, parent-teacher associations and similar organizations to visit the diet school recently started by the Monroe School Association. The diet school meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock at the Wilson Normal School, 11th and Harvard streets northwest.

Memorial Services Planned. Memorial services for the late Lucius Harkum, a nurse for more than fifty years at Freedmen's Hospital, are to be held at Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, April 8, under the auspices of the United Citizens Alliance and the National Baptist Evangelical Alliance. Rev. Simon P. W. Drew is making arrangements for the affair and several persons have been invited to speak.

Chester to Address S. A. R. Rear Admiral C. M. Chester, the newly elected president of the Sons of the American Revolution, is to speak on "The National Defense" at a meeting of the society tomorrow evening, at the National Armory, 4th and M streets, N.E. The committee appointed to locate the graves of revolutionary soldiers in the District of Columbia, is to make a report at this time.

## ONE PEOPLE IN EUROPE NOT ENGAGED IN WAR

Peaceful in Action, in Intent, and Known World Over as Gypsies.

Race Which Enters Into the Life of Every Nation Under the Sun.

"Europe has still today one utterly peaceful people, a people peaceful in action, in intent, and of peaceful contemplation," says a bulletin just issued by the National Geographic Society. "According to press dispatches, this race is the only such race, but, then, it is one of the most peculiar peoples in the world's history, the gypsies."

Origin Not Definitely Known. "Where they came has never been settled to a certainty. All manner of fables have been spun to explain their origin. Since they first appeared upon the stage of Europe in the middle ages, they have been identified with the lost tribes of Israel, the 'mixed multitude' that followed Moses out of Egypt, the Canaanites, the Amosites, the Saracens and the Egyptians. They have been held to be the children of Cain, and others have decided that they were the children of the wandering Jew and inventors of the gypsy curse of the future."

Their Language Preserved. "This language they have wonderfully preserved in the face of overwhelming influences and eternal wanderings. This has not been accomplished by a literature or by a close corporation. The gypsies have no literature, and their language is an unwritten one, while they themselves are scattered in small bands over the whole face of the earth—scattered even more widely than the Jews. The gypsy calls himself 'rom,' meaning man, 'the man of all men.' His wife is 'romni,' his folk-life is 'romani,' and his language is 'romani.' Every one of his race comes under the generic term of 'gentile.'"

Gypsy-folk present a smaller and more complex problem to philology and ethnography. An elementary, nomadic folk, persisting for centuries in the midst of complex civilizations, they have retained their physical characteristics, their tribal rules and customs reminiscent of the far-distant, European past, their highly infected language, and their thousand years of fever for roving. They are absolutely regular and without close parallel among the peoples of earth.

"To give room for wandering is it that the word was made so wide. 'Gypsy' religion and gypsy aspiration may be summed up in two lines from the works of the German poet, Goethe:

Enter Europe in Twelfth Century. This folk entered Europe by way of Constantinople in the twelfth century, and overflowed into the northern Balkans, Hungary, central and western Europe, England, and thence to North America. The English called them Egyptians, after their supposed origin, whence the name 'gypsy.' They reached Germany in about 1417 and England about 1500. At first they were treated kindly by the western nations, but their strangeness, their unconventional, their light-fingered ways, their proneness for fortune-telling, their gypsy magic, and their unwillingness for work in all forms soon called down upon them bitter persecution in Germany, England, France and the Netherlands.

In the Balkans, Russia, Hungary and Poland they were well treated, and they are found in these countries in great numbers today. It is estimated that Europe has more than 900,000 gypsies."

Mrs. Elizabeth Noale Pleasant, widow of Richard Hall Pleasant, died at her home in Baltimore after an illness of less than twenty-four hours, of pneumonia. She was eighty-three years old.

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Commission Is Bombaraded. "The national commission has been bombarded of late with requests for back salaries. These have all come from minor league players, who were unable to collect from different clubs last fall. The commission naturally tries to satisfy the players to the best of its ability, but if the club owing the money is bankrupt our hands are tied."

There will be a serious condition confronting club owners and players. If the owners could not pay their men last year, the chances are they won't be able to the coming season. "For that reason I advocate the closing of the parks for a year. It would be better than not being able to pay the men at all."

"There will be hundreds of ball players on the market in a short time and each club will have to pick up its men. The minors? They are strapped. The majors? They have about 250 to 300 more than they need. The National League will have to let out something like 150 men. The American League about the same number. It is no wild-eyed dream on my part. I know the conditions and I have looked at it from every angle."

Majors Must Retrench. "There will also have to be retracments in the major league field. The abolishment of spring training trips I think will be in order next year. These trips are getting to be pretty much of a joke. As for making any money in the south with exhibition games, that is practically impossible. The south has been milked dry and the clubs are losing something like \$5,000 or \$10,000 every year. But that is not all. What

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## BAN JOHNSON SAYS BASE BALL IS IN NEED OF GREAT REFORM

Suggests Doing Away With Training Camps, Closing Minor League Parks and Retrenchments Along All Lines.

CHICAGO, Ill., March 23.—Base ball is in for an overhauling such as it has never before experienced if the suggestions of B. B. Johnson, president of the American League, are carried out. According to the head of the junior circuit, there is need of reform along both artistic and financial lines. Included in the scheme for a new deal are the closing of the gates for the coming season of some fifty ball parks and the abolishment of spring training trips. The padlocks would be distributed among five or six minor leagues, while the American and National leagues would be principally affected by the new system of training.

The apparent lack of interest in base ball in smaller towns is the reason for the first suggestion, and needless expense coupled with their reception both at the gate and by the weather man at southern training camps is responsible for the second. Then the hipodrome features of the spring trips probably had considerable to do with it. The policy of closing the gates of some of the minor league clubs has been last few days through appeals to the back salaries. It seems that some forty of minor leagues failed to make players at meet last year, and the players are at present in possession of the O. O. U. S. on which they have been waiting for the coming season. Not being able to get the money, the players have flooded the commission with requests for money.

Worst Is Yet to Come. The supreme court of base ball has been unable to offer much encouragement, and it was pointed out through Mr. Johnson that the worst is yet to come. Hundreds of players are likely to be out of jobs the coming season, the players have flooded the commission with requests for money.

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## Oil Painting for Public Library.

A magnificent oil painting of the Grand Canyon of Colorado by Lucien W. Powell has just been hung in the central building of the Public Library. Several years ago Mrs. John B. Henderson, who has a large collection of paintings by Lucien W. Powell, loaned one of them—a fine large seascape—to the Public Library. It hangs above the west landing of the main staircase. The picture of the Grand Canyon, also loaned by Mrs. Henderson, has now been hung above the east landing.

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